AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application:

1. - 48. (Cancelled)

49. (Currently Amended) An implantable ~~bearing for an~~ orthopaedic prosthesis, comprising:

a laminar composite bearing having (i) ~~a gamma irradiated~~ radiation crosslinked layer of ~~polymer~~ polyethylene; and (ii) a non-crosslinked layer of ~~polymer~~ polyethylene molded to said crosslinked layer of ~~polymer~~ polyethylene at a melt-fused interface.

50. (Currently Amended) The implantable ~~bearing~~ orthopaedic prosthesis of claim 49, wherein said ~~gamma irradiated~~ radiation crosslinked layer of ~~polymer~~ polyethylene and said non-crosslinked layer of ~~polymer~~ polyethylene are compression molded to one another.

51. Cancelled.

52. (Currently Amended) The implantable ~~bearing~~ orthopaedic prosthesis of claim 49, wherein:

said ~~gamma irradiated~~ radiation crosslinked layer of ~~polymer~~ polyethylene has an articulating surface defined therein, and

said non-crosslinked layer of ~~polymer~~ polyethylene has an engaging surface defined therein which is adapted to be secured to an acetabulum of a patient.

53. (Withdrawn) The implantable bearing of claim 49, wherein:

said crosslinked layer of polymer has an articulating surface defined therein, and

said non-crosslinked layer of polymer has an engaging surface defined therein which is adapted to be secured to a glenoid of a patient.

54. (Withdrawn) The implantable bearing of claim 49, wherein:

said crosslinked layer of polymer has an articulating surface defined therein, and

said non-crosslinked layer of polymer has an engaging surface defined therein which is adapted to be secured to a tibia of a patient.

55. (Currently Amended) The implantable ~~bearing~~ orthopaedic prosthesis of claim 49, wherein said ~~gamma-irradiated~~ radiation crosslinked layer of ~~polymer~~ polyethylene has an articulating surface defined therein.

56. (Currently Amended) An implantable ~~bearing for an~~ orthopaedic prosthesis, comprising:

a laminar composite bearing having (i) a first layer of ~~gamma-irradiated polymer~~ polyethylene which is radiation crosslinked to a first degree; and (ii) a second layer of ~~polymer~~ polyethylene molded to said first layer of ~~polymer~~ polyethylene at a melt-fused interface, said second layer of ~~polymer~~ polyethylene is crosslinked to a second degree that is different than said first degree.

57. (Currently Amended) The implantable ~~bearing~~ orthopaedic prosthesis of claim 56, wherein said second degree is less than said first degree.

58. (Currently Amended) The implantable ~~bearing~~ orthopaedic prosthesis of claim 57, wherein said first layer of ~~gamma irradiated polymer~~ polyethylene has an articulating surface defined therein.

59. (Currently Amended) The implantable ~~bearing~~ orthopaedic prosthesis of claim 56, wherein said first layer of ~~gamma irradiated polymer~~ polyethylene and said second layer of ~~polymer~~ polyethylene are compression molded to one another.

60. Cancelled.

61. (Currently Amended) The implantable ~~bearing~~ orthopaedic prosthesis of claim 56, wherein:

said first layer of ~~gamma irradiated polymer~~ polyethylene has an articulating surface defined therein, and

said second layer of ~~polymer~~ polyethylene has an engaging surface defined therein which is adapted to be secured to an acetabulum of a patient.

62. (Withdrawn) The implantable bearing of claim 56, wherein:

said first layer of polymer has an articulating surface defined therein, and

said second layer of polymer has an engaging surface defined therein which is adapted to be secured to a glenoid of a patient.

63. (Withdrawn) The implantable bearing of claim 56, wherein:

said first layer of polymer has an articulating surface defined therein, and

said second layer of polymer has an engaging surface defined therein which is adapted to be implanted into a tibia of a patient.

64. - 123. (Cancelled)

124. (Currently Amended) The implantable ~~bearing~~ orthopaedic prosthesis of claim 56, wherein the second layer of ~~polymer~~ polyethylene comprises ~~gamma irradiated polymer~~ radiation crosslinked polyethylene.